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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by telephone with any department of the Deseret News, will save themselves and this establishment a great deal of annoyance if they will take time to notice these numbers:

For the Chief Editor's Office, 318. For Deseret News Book Store, 74. For City Editor and Reporter, 33-2. For Business Manager, 74-R. For Business Office, 33-2.

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

It was a deplorable accident that interrupted an otherwise pleasant journey of tourists and immigrants, many of whom were nearing their destination, where loving friends were anxiously waiting to bid them welcome. The accident is all the more noticed, because such occurrences, fortunately, are very infrequent on our local roads. It is a matter for congratulation that so few persons were injured, and that the injuries sustained were not of a more serious nature. They were serious enough, and the victims have the sincere sympathy of the general public, as well as their intimate friends; but, the escape from what might have been general slaughter seems providential. That so very few of the 150, or more, passengers in the cars that were overturned, sustained injuries is almost miraculous. We hope the sufferers will speedily recover under the loving care of friends, and that they will be none the worse off for the experience of having passed so near to the very gates of death. If we compare this accident with the railroad horror on the Lake Shore road, that took place almost at the same time, and in which so many lives were lost, nearly all of the victims being prominent business or professional men, from New York and other large cities, the accident nearer home seems almost insignificant.

There may be just cause for complaint that railroad accidents are more numerous in this country than in Great Britain, for instance. Statisticians claim that in the United States one passenger is fatally injured in every 1,577,441 carried, while in Great Britain the proportion is only one to every 47,792,320. Our railroads are single-track roads. The immense distances in this country make a complete double track arrangement almost impracticable, on account of the enormous expense it would entail. This is one cause of many accidents. There are others. But it is absolutely certain, that the managers of transportation lines are as careful as human beings can be in the prevention of any occurrences that cause injury to life or limb. The great wonder is, that the complicated systems of transportation that modern business conditions necessitate, do not result in a great many more accidents than actually happen. The facts speak volumes for the efficiency of the management in every detail, of those systems.

The subject of railroad accidents has another side to which attention may be called in this connection. A number of cases that have come to the public notice through suits in the courts for damages, have been proved to be frauds. Railroads, corporations, and cities, are said to be fleeced annually to the tune of about \$15,000,000, by claimants to damages for injuries never sustained. Every railroad company, every trolley company, and all of our big cities, are made the victims of this kind of robbery. A contributor to the current number of Pearson's Magazine tells an interesting story of a Chicago girl who succeeded in obtaining thousands of dollars from various corporations. She made a successful business of suing for damages, until, finally, detectives unmasked her. So great an expert was she that although physicians who examined her were convinced that she was shamming, her simulation of paralysis was so perfect, that it was impossible to obtain the proof of the fraud. Even phisicking did not make her wince. Numerous other similar instances are related.

The fact is, that some persons have come to regard the robbing of corporations, an almost a meretricious act. It is, nevertheless, bad policy. Railroad companies, and street car companies, have cheapened freight and passenger rates to such an extent as was never dreamed of in the good old days of the stage coach. Without these transportation facilities, modern business would be an impossibility. The money that is fraudulently extorted from such, and other, corporations will, finally, have to be paid by the people themselves, who depend on them for transportation. For it is clear that every judgment a railroad is compelled to pay increases the operating expenses that will have to come out of the purses of the patrons.

THE NORWEGIAN CRISIS.

The tone of the message of King Oscar to the extraordinary session of the Swedish Parliament is in complete harmony with the expressions of the monarch, previously given on the Norwegian crisis. It is permeated by a spirit of peace and dignity, and there can be no doubt that his influence will shape the opinion of the representatives of the Swedish people. There will therefore be no hostility. The union will be dissolved by mutual agreement, and the two nations will take each its own course. The intention seems to be to appoint delegates to meet representatives of the Norwegians, for the purpose of ascertaining what guarantees the Norwegian people will give as to their future political course, and if the negotiations on this subject can be carried to a successful completion, the two nations will part in friendship and mutual good will. King Oscar undoubtedly expressed the prevalent opinion of the conservative Swedes, when he said, the union is not worth the sacrifices which acts of coercion would entail. He certainly expressed an indisputable truth when he added: "A union into which Norway would be forced in such a manner, would be of little value to Sweden."

The union of the two Scandinavian peoples may now be considered definitely dissolved. It will not be long before the Norwegian government, in whatever form the people agree on—a republic or constitutional monarchy—will be recognized by the powers of the world, and thus the ambition of the political leaders of that country will be fully realized.

We have previously given a brief history of the union of the two Scandinavian kingdoms, which was effected in 1814. This union, though it extended only to the common king and common consular and diplomatic representation, was really never accepted by Norway. The Norwegians resented the arrangement made for it, and then the Swedish Crown Prince Bernadotte, the grandfather of the present king, invaded Norway with troops, and the campaign against Napoleon. The principal fortress of Norway, Frederiksteen, soon fell into the hands of the Swedes, and though the Norwegians fought bravely, they realized the futility of resistance, and peace was concluded. The Swedish king was elected king of Norway, on condition of his recognizing the independence of that kingdom. Though peace nominally was secured, disagreements between the representatives of the two kingdoms have been frequent occurrences. A few instances may be cited. In the first place, Norway refused to pay any part of the indemnity that was awarded the king of Denmark by the treaty of Kiel. Peace at that time was secured by the king who renounced for himself and the crown prince the Norwegian part of the civil list for a period of ten years.

Another strife occurred when the Norwegian Parliament abolished the nobility of the country. The king finally had to yield. Later the Norwegians objected to having a vice-regent. This office therefore was abolished, the king yielding to the Norwegian pressure. A few years ago the question of royal veto in constitutional amendments very nearly caused hostilities between the political parties in Norway. The king claimed to have absolute veto, while the parliament claimed to have the power of setting aside his veto. The king had the best legal authority for his contention, and the Norwegian Council of State upheld him, but in spite of all, the parliament forced the resignation of the Council of State, and the king had to yield. Thus the entire history of the union has been a series of conflicts, in which the parliament has had the victory over the administrative part of the government. It is to be hoped that these conflicts will now cease, and that the two branches of government, will be able to work together in perfect harmony.

Norway has produced many eminent men. We need only mention Bjornson, Ibsen, Nansen, Ole Bull and Edward Grieg. Vergeland at one time dreamed of three Scandinavian republics, united in one strong bond. It is not impossible that the step now taken by Norway is toward a realization of this dream.

MAXIMO GOMEZ.

General Maximo Gomez, whose mortal remains have now been laid to rest with military honors, by the Cubans, was evidently the man of destiny, whose special mission in this world was the liberation of the beautiful West Indian island, from the Spanish yoke of thralldom. He was of Spanish extraction, born in Santo Domingo. He commenced his career as a cavalry officer in the Spanish army, and distinguished himself in the war with the Mexicans. He followed the Spanish troops to Cuba, and was for a time in Santiago. Here he became disgusted with the manner in which the Spanish general treated some Cuban refugees, for whom he had collected funds. To fact, he struck the general, and called him a coward, whereupon he, of course, left the army, and became the enemy of Spain, for ever. He fought with the Cuban patriots in the ten years' insurrection against Spanish tyranny.

When the last war of independence broke out, Gomez hastened to Cuba and again joined the patriots. He fought many a battle, and completely exterminated the Spanish commandos. The human way in which the Spaniards treated the Cubans, grieved this noble soldier to give his entire life to the service of the oppressed. It was the same inhumanity to the "concentrados" that aroused the storm of indignation in this country, before which the Spaniards were swept from Cuba, as by a cyclone. For, when the Spaniards attempted to interfere with the distribution of the food which American generosity intended for the relief of Cuban misery, and, when in addition, American sailors lost their lives in the harbor of Havana, no human power could stay the march of the liberators. General Gomez's last public appearance, we are told, was at Havana, March 23 last, on the occasion of the visit of the American squadron to that

port. He was the first speaker at the luncheon given at the National theater to the American officers, and he eulogized the United States' sacrifices in behalf of Cuba, adding that the Cubans would not forget their obligations to the great Republic.

A POLITICAL VISION.

Political prophets are already discovering wonderful possibilities in the near future, in the way of alignment of European nations as a result of the practical elimination of Russia from the influential powers. They believe that the true aim of the Kaiser in his Morocco policy was to convince France, that an alliance with Germany would be more advantageous than an understanding with Great Britain. Should France be convinced of this, and swing over to Germany, the two powers, it is thought, would have everything their own way. What, it is asked, could prevent them from division of a large part of the Old World between themselves? Germany could then get Holland, German Austria, Constantinople with most of European Turkey. France could absorb Belgium, Morocco, Italy, Spain. In a word, to Germany could be given the eastern to France the western, Roman empire. To Germany the reversion of all that the Ottoman Turks wrested in Asia or in Europe from the Byzantine Caesars; to France, the assured inheritance of nearly all the splendid conquests made by the Romans in the west. Such is the vision that is said to be presented to some of the political dreamers. Undoubtedly Russia's defeat means much to the rest of the world, but just what, only the future can disclose.

Going it alone does not make Norway feel lonely.

Take the shady side of the street and both the water.

If there had been a mentor at Montfort there might have been no wreck.

The President must have enough degrees to paper his library with parchment.

The railroad accident season has opened with a grand flourish and a splendid catastrophe.

It lies with Russia to say whether the peace commission shall or shall not be a Wittensengemot.

Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks' report on the Equitable was not a whitewash, whatever else it was.

The President has given Mr. Paul Morton a certificate of character such as few men can boast. It makes him a "good injun" so long as he shall live.

"Cowboys are all right, but it goes on record that cowgirls in cowboy clothes have no place in this administration," says the Boston Herald-Courier.

The State Supreme Court having decided, unanimously too, that the bond issue was perfectly legal, it was very considerate of its enemies to decide not to fight it.

It is charged against the Japanese that they are a nation of imitators. It might advantage Russia to become a nation of imitators, taking as her first example the Japanese.

Mrs. Howard Gould says she did not swear at the architect. No one would have blamed her very much if she had. But the fact that she didn't shows that she is a very remarkable woman.

The wreck of the Lake Shore Twentieth Century Limited was very bad and most regrettable, but the result would have been practically the same had an ordinary passenger train running at the usual rate of speed run into that open switch. The disaster is not an argument against the new fast train. Whoever left that switch open, through neglect or malice, is to blame, and if found should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Soon after Chicago declared for "immediate municipal ownership," Mr. Dalrymple, the Glasgow expert on the subject, was sent for to look over the situation. He came and saw, and this is his comment on what he saw: "Until politics is entirely disassociated from municipal government and men entirely free from political influences are placed in office, successful municipal control of public utilities in the United States is practically impossible. . . . I came to this country a believer in public ownership. What I have seen here, and I have studied the situation carefully, makes me realize that private ownership makes the proper conditions is far better for the citizens of America." That is the hardest blow that municipal ownership of street railways has received for a long time. But the experiment will be made in Chicago and her experience will be worth more than any expert's opinion.

A NEW ERA FOR RUSSIA.

Los Angeles Times. In the Alexander Palace, at Peterhof, the Emperor of Russia yesterday received the zemstvo deputation from Moscow. This reception, and the results which seem likely to flow from it, promise a new era for Russia. It will be remembered that the all-Russian zemstvo congress assembled at Moscow last long ago drew up an earnest petition to the Emperor, in which the zemstvo treated the Cubans, grieved this noble soldier to give his entire life to the service of the oppressed. It was the same inhumanity to the "concentrados" that aroused the storm of indignation in this country, before which the Spaniards were swept from Cuba, as by a cyclone. For, when the Spaniards attempted to interfere with the distribution of the food which American generosity intended for the relief of Cuban misery, and, when in addition, American sailors lost their lives in the harbor of Havana, no human power could stay the march of the liberators. General Gomez's last public appearance, we are told, was at Havana, March 23 last, on the occasion of the visit of the American squadron to that

THE BRITISH WAR SCANDALS.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. There have been hints that the report of the committee headed by Sir William Butler would make unpleasant disclosures concerning the conduct of the Boer war, and the facts now revealed more than justify the advance notices. It appears from the report that about \$50,000,000 was lost in a few months through corruption and criminal waste in disposing of unused mili-

tary stores, and, moreover, that Mr. Forster, secretary of state for war, made persistent efforts to hamper the inquiries of the committee and prevent them from reaching those "higher up." The committee intimates, in effect, that there is worse to come and more of it, for "time has not been allowed us in which to extend our investigations into the great body of the transactions."

GOMEZ.

New York World. The Latin peoples age early in the tropics, yet Maximo Gomez was seventy-five years old when his ten crossed years of achievement and of triumph began. He had passed through the ten years' war, winning laurels as a valiant hero, and had retired to Santo Domingo when the rebellion was crushed. There the Marty rising of 1895 found him—a tiny, withered, white-haired old man, the last man on a hundred mostly forays and retreats and an occasional victory; he wore out Spanish men, means and patience; and when he sinking of the Matus drew Spain from the hemisphere he showed that he could be magnanimous as well as brave.

BEST ANTITOXIN FOR THE FOURTH.

Chicago Record-Herald. The health department in its weekly bulletin urges that the antitoxin treatment for Fourth of July tetanus victims be not neglected, quoting an eastern medical journal to the effect that not a single blank cartridge would be used in the development of the disease. The department insists that with such a valuable remedy available every effort should be made to use it in all cases of wounds of the dangerous class on the Fourth. That is excellent advice, and it is to be hoped that parents and doctors alike will heed it. But there is even better advice than this to be given. There is an even better antitoxin against Fourth of July deaths than the kind the doctors use. It consists in repeated applications of strict law enforcement, both before the Fourth and upon the Fourth.

THE MOROCCAN QUESTION.

San Francisco Chronicle. The war cloud created by the Moroccan question, which a few days ago menaced the peace of France and Germany and threatened to involve Great Britain and Spain, has been apparently dissipated by the explanation made by the German ambassador at Paris to the French government. The latter desired definite information regarding the German government's ideas upon the scope and limitations of the international conference which it was proposed should be held to discuss the affairs of Morocco. Prince von Radolin was able to give Premier Rouvier assurances that the proposition was not intended as a preliminary step to override French prestige in the Sultan's dominions.

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